जब कि गुजरात का 9.38 है और प्रोडक्टिविटी फार वीवर्स इन हाउस होल्ड यूनिट उसका नेशनल ऐवरेज 3.66 है जब कि गुजरात का 10.17 है। इसको देखते हुए हैंडलूम और बढ़ना चाहिए। लेकिन गुजरात में हैंडलूम कम होता जा रहा है। वहां हैंडलूम में जितनी स्कीमें बनी हुई हैं उनको पावरलूम ले लेता है। इसके कारण पावरलूम की संख्या बढ़ जाती है और हैंडलूम की संख्या कम होती जा रही है। अभी गुजरात में 16340 यूनिट्स हैं जो पहले से कम है लेकिन पावरलूम्स की संख्या बहुत बढ़ गई है।

दूसरी बात माननीय सदस्य ने भ्रष्टाचार की बताई। भ्रष्टाचार को दूर करने के लिए जो आर्टिजन और वीवर्स हैं उनके प्रोडक्शन को सीधे बायर्स तक पहुंचाने के लिए हमने बहुत सारी स्कीमें बनाई हैं। इस बारे में मैंने जैसे पहले बताया आर्टिजन हाट की हर स्टेट में व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं ताकि वे अपना प्रोडक्ट मार्केट में सीधा लाकर उसको बेच सकें। ऐसी व्यवस्था सरकार कर रही है। सरकार हर स्टेट में मार्केटिंग कम्पलेक्स भी बनाने जा रही है ताकि भ्रष्टाचार कम हो। करप्शन दूर करने के लिए और भी स्टेप हमने लियें हैं क्योंकि बहुत सारे एनजीओ ऐसे हैं उनको हम ब्लैक लिस्ट कर रहे हैं क्योंकि उनकी अकाऊंटेबिलिटी अच्छी नहीं है और उनका पास्ट रिकार्ड भी अच्छा नहीं है। यह हैंडलूम और हैंडीक्राफ्ट का हमारा पैसा और सारी हैंडलूम की स्कीमें स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के थ्रू चलती हैं, उसमें राज्य सरकारों को भी अपना शेयर देना पड़ता है। कई राज्यों की सरकारें अपना शेयर नहीं दे पाती हैं जैसे नागालैंड है, नार्थ ईस्टर्न स्टेट्स हैं, वहां पर हमारे सारे फंड का यूटीलाइज़ेशन नहीं हो रहा है। चूंकि स्टेट्स को अपना शेयर देना होता है इसलिए स्टेट्स प्रोपोज़ल या रिक्मेंडेशंस नहीं भेजती हैं। लेकिन इसका भी कोई रास्ता निकाल कर हम सीधे उनको पैसा दे सकें, इसकी व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं।

Power Shortage

42. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI[1]
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the over all shortage of power; and

(b) what steps are being taken to meet this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The overall energy shortage in the country during April to October 1999 was 4.8% compared to energy shortage of 5.3% in the corresponding period last year, and a shortage of 8.1% in 1997-98.

[1] The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jalaludin Ansari.

(b) In order to improve availability of power and generation capacity and make optimal use of the available power resources in country, the following measures have been taken:—

A. Expeditious implementation of capacity addition programme.

B. Promotion of measures for demand side management such as flattening of load curve by staggering weekly off day of industrial consumers and regulation of power supply to consumers through grouping restrictions.

C. Renovation and modernisation (R&M) of existing generating stations.

D. Disbursement of loans by Power Finance Corporation for improving operation and maintenance of thermal power stations under accelerated generation programme.

E. Promotion of inter-state and inter-regional power transfers.

F. Coordinated operation of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas turbine power stations in the regional power system.

G. Augmentation of transmission, transformation capacity in the power system and installation of capacitors to improve the voltage.

H. Reduction of transmission and distribution losses.

†**श्री जलालुद्दीन अंसारी:** सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने पूरे देश में पावर शार्टेज के जो आंकड़े दिये हैं वह यह हैं कि अप्रैल से अक्तूबर, 1999 तक 4.8 प्रतिशत की कमी है और उन्होंने इस कमी को दूर करने के लिए 8 सूत्री मेज़र्ज उठाने की बात भी कही है। उन्होंने इसमें यह बताने की कोशिश की है कि लास्ट ईयर से इम्प्रूवमेंट है। हम यह जानना चाहते हैं कि यह तो आपके लांग टर्म मेज़र्ज हैं लेकिन जो पावर शार्टेज है, उसका परसेंटेज घट भले ही गया है, इसका मैं एक उदाहरण आपको देना चाहता हूं, आपने उत्तरी ग्रिड से दिल्ली का जोड़ा है, इसके बावजूद भी दिल्ली में बिजली की कमी की शिकायतें बराबर आ रही हैं। अखबारों में आप हमेशा देखते हैं। इसी तरह से देश के दूसरे राज्यों में भी और कुल मिला कर के पूरे देश में पावर की जो कमी है इसके लिए एक लांग टर्म के रूप में आपने 8 सूत्री मेज़र्ज लिये हैं लेकिन मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि शार्ट टर्म मेज़र्ज क्या हैं इस कमी को पूरा करने के लिए और इसमें कितना समय लगेगा? अगर सचमुच आप चाहते हैं कि पावर की जो कमी है वह दूर हो तो इसके लिए कोई शार्ट टर्म प्रोग्राम होना चाहिए जिसके ज़रिये तत्काल बिजली की

†Transliteration of the speech in Persian Script is available in the Hindi version of the Debate.

कमी पूरी हो जाए। आपने इस सिलसिले में क्या कदम उठाए हैं और इसमें क्या प्रगति हुई है, हम यह जानना चाहते हैं?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member for having raised this question because, I think, it is critical for the nation. Sir, I may submit that out of the eight measures we have given, all of them are not long-term. In fact, short-term measures, like renovation and modernisation of existing generation stations, have been one of the major reasons why we have been able to address the problem of shortages. We had a shortage of almost eight per cent in the year 1997-98. We have come down to 4.8 per cent, it means, there has been a substantial address to this question. In fact, we have an accelerated programme by which we finance SEBs at a very low interest rate of 4 per cent to do their renovation and modernisation because that is the short-term solution to our problem. Simultaneously, the major problem-- for example, reference has been made to Delhi—Delhi does not really have shortage of supply of power. The real problem is the distribution side of power where we need to upgrade our sub-transmission as well as our distribution facilities. The simplest example is that the transformer that is there at the end of the road, which supplies a particular number of consumers, is down-rated really in comparison to the real load that is drawn by the consumers. Often, consumers do not declare what is the actual load which they are drawing. We need to look at the distribution side also. I have been having meetings with the Chief Minister of Delhi in this regard, as well as with the Minister of Power of Delhi, and I must say that they are coming forth to addressing this problem, and I think the next summer will be bad, but we should do our best to try and alleviate in the short-term also. In short-term, the best that can be done is renovation and modernisation, improvement of local distribution systems, improving, augmenting—if I may use the word—the sub-transmission and transformers which exist and also putting in more capacitors to ensure that we can handle what is called reactive load or load that comes in because of using equipment like air-conditioners and high energy-consuming equipment. We are addressing the problem. It is, in fact, because of this that we have been able to come down; it is not because of the long-term programme, because a power plant normally takes three to five years. Therefore, there is no way we could have

improved in the last two years if it had not been a short-term programme.

श्री जलालुदीन अंसारी: महोदय, मंत्री जी ने कहा कि वितरण की गड़बड़ी की वजह से कठिनाई हो रही है। तो वितरण की गड़बड़ी को जल्दी से ठीक करने के लिए क्या इनके पास कोई उपाय है, यह बताएं और इनको शार्ट टर्म मेजर्स लेने चाहिए ताकि इस कमी को दूर किया जा सके।

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I welcome the suggestion of the hon. Member. We have, what is called, the Capacitor Addition Programme. We put various capacitances on the circuit to stabilise the voltage. The moment we stabilise the voltage, we are able to draw more power. Otherwise, when the voltage is low, and the frequency is low. The ability to even draw power falls. We are taking steps in that regard.

Here, I must say that the States are cooperating in the last two years. Otherwise, these results of improvement in the power scenario would not have been there.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Sir, the hon. Minister had, in his reply, said that the energy shortage has been brought down to 4.8% up till October, 1999. Sir, along with that, this year there is an additional requirement also. Therefore, there is a necessity to enhance the installed capacity. He has rightly said that expeditious implementation of the capacity addition programme will be undertaken by him.

At the same time, the Minister had made a statement saying that the NTPC will buy out the National Hydro Power Corporation for Rs. 4,500 crores and he had also said that out of this money, Rs. 2,500 crores will be given towards the end of the fiscal year and the rest towards the middle of next year. But the Rs. 2,500 crores that is to be given towards the end of this year would be used for bridging the fiscal deficit of the Government! Then, along with that, it is also said that the Power Minister has decided to have off a few power plants of NTPC to private companies and that the Government is planning to sell 51% of the shares to the private sector. If we take these two things together, it seems that the Minister is intending to take steps to weaken the public sector institutions under the Government of India in order to utilise the money generated to

invest further in increasing the installed capacity for generating power. Will this policy be reviewed?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: May I firstly make it clear to the House, through you, Sir, that often, some of what is reported in the Press is not totally what we say. But leaving that apart, if I may come to the point, at the moment, there is a proposal before the Government. The proposal is basically because we have been, in the last two decades, in fact, from 1972 onwards, been laying emphasis more on thermal generation and less on hydro Every power system requires hydro power because it is the most reliable source of peaking power. While we have power shortage of 4.8% in base load is because we really have a peaking power shortage of nearly ten per cent, i.e., when people drew more power. If I may submit, the only answer to that is to improve the ratio between thermal and hydro mix. In 1970, the ratio was 44% hydel and 56% thermal. Today, it is 25% hydel and 75% thermal. That is one of the reasons. Even if we are able to bring the base load shortage the zero, we still will be having a problem with peaking power.

That means when you require power, everybody requires simultaneously, you would not have it available. Sir, if I may submit, we need to have an additional capacity of about 35000 MW of hydel power in the next eight to ten years. If one wants to set this ratio, to some extent all right, then bring it atleast to 35 to 36 per cent, which means we are talking of an investment almost of eleven lakh crores of rupees. Even if one looks at the equity position of one third and goes by 70 and 30, we would require rupees six to eight thousand crores every year. It is not a joke to find this sort of money. We were addressing it and we asked the ICICI, as our consultant, to look into as to what is the financial engineering package that they can suggest for restructuring for the purpose of ensuring that we are able to raise resources on our own strength. The NTPC today has Rs. 12,000 crores as reserves and Rs. 2,000 crores actually as treasury assets. It has the ability to raise on its own nearly Rs. 45,000 crores, what is called the approved assets. If market value goes up, it would be easily, may be, 50 per cent more. The NTPC strength is there in terms of financial strength because we have concentrated on thermal. For hydel, unfortunately, the NTPC is a nascent child. If has got only about 2300 MW. If we make that grow, the talent for hydel is in the

NHPC; it is not in the NTPC. We need the money of the NTPC and we need the talent of the NHPC. We need to marry the two. We need to do restructuring. Various ideas have come forth. The Government has not taken a final decision. What is reported.....(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JIBON ROY: The NHPC may be sold to the NTPC. ...(*Interruptions*).....

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: One second. .....(*Interruptions*)..... Let me finish. ..(*Interruptions*)... I have not even said that it is being sold. All views and ideas are welcome. Among the options given one was to raise resources by disinvestment of shares of the NTPC. The second option that came forth, exactly what has been read out, is that you make subsidiaries of some of the power plants of the NTPC, sell 51 per cent of the shares of those subsidiaries and raise your own resources. The third is either you merge the NHPC and the NTPC together so that you are able to get a common balancesheet and leverage. The fourth is, because NTPC and NHPC have their own cultural problems, therefore, keep these two companies independent, managements going independent and that should make available the balancesheet of the NTPC and NHPC by purchase of equity. It does not mean that the Government is going to reduce its spending. But Rs. 6000 or Rs. 7000 crores is a large bill only for the power sector. ...(*Interruptions*)... Let me make it clear. No decision has been taken. All that was there was in a seminar where I said that these are the options which are under the consideration of the Government. The Government has not taken a final decision. Very frankly I would say that I am open to any advice in this regard for the simple reason that this problem is very big and I believe no single person can make a decision. I welcome Members of this august House to give whatever advice they think is right to address the problem. I am not weakening the public sector. I know there is a huge lobby which wants the NTPC to sell its shares in the market by disinvestment. I do not propose to do that because, I think, there is a time to do that much later. We do not really get the full return of the shares when we indulge in small adhoc sales. In fact, we get undervalued most of the time. That is why first we need to do financial restructuring and engineering. All ideas which are there are most welcome. No final decision has been taken. But, we are in the

process of addressing this problem. And I must say so. ...(*Interruptions*)... I do not want to discuss it here. It is not my...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: We can have a debate on this. Sir, he says that he welcomes all ideas...(*Interruptions*)... We can have a properly structured debate on this subject in the form of a Calling Attention Motion. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Salve ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Sir, the mind-boggling figures that he has given of the investment required, one can only sympathise with him. My question arises from the answer given by the Minister in para (b)— optimal use of available power.

In Delhi, consumers are experiencing....

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Sir, I have got a right to put another supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Only the Member, who initiated the question, has a right to put two supplementaries.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: In Delhi, consumers are experiencing invariable shortage and frequent breakdown of power, much to their inconvenience and, for days, it has been going on. May I known from the Minister, *inter alia,* whether it is on account of extemely old, outdated, obsolete, transmission and transformation system, which was installed as early as during the British regime? In view of his difficulties to find finances himself, or, through any of his public sector undertakings, what prevents the Government from privatizing the distribution of power to ensure optimal use of available power?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I must, at the outset, thank the former Minister of Power, my senior, the hon. Member. But I must also say that the Delhi Vidyut Board does not come under the Government of India, it comes under the Government of Delhi. He is partly correct in saying that some portion of the transmission and distribution equipment is very old, but it is in the process of replacement. The real genesis of the problem is not just the quality of the equipment, but it has also got to do with the consumers not

declaring the actual load they are consuming. Sir, revenue is not coming in because metering, and off the line/direct, theft are taking place. We have, in Delhi, 44 per cent transmission and distribution losses, which is above three times of what is technically permissible. It obviously means, a lot of power is being stolen. Revenue is improving in Delhi, but it is nowhere near the amount that they should get in the normal course, and in terms of the tariffs that are there in Delhi. The answer is privatization. But, Sir, it is not easy for us to sit here, at the Centre, and command the State Government. It does not work that way. We have been discussing this with the Government of Delhi. The Government of Delhi has been positive. They have appointed the ICICI as their consultants, and then they appointed SBI CAPS and they propose to come forth with a scheme of how they should privatize the distribution.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: The Government of Delhi is ready for privatization.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I am sorry, that is not the right answer, from my point of view, because, I, along with my whole team met the Chief Minister of Delhi just a couple of weeks ago. She assured me that she would get back by a particular date. She still needs a little more time. I think her intentions are very honourable and she is trying her best. But the problem is not about her trying. The problem is, there is a very strong, vested interest, lobby, which is benefiting from the transmission and distribution losses. It is not easy to fight it out. I think we should give her all the support she needs and try to see how best we can address this problem.

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been listening to the hon. Minister. I would like to put the following questions: any number of installations will not satisfy the per capita consumption. So, the problem does not lie in putting in more and more power, whch, of couse, must be done. As he pointed out, is is transmission, which is the problem. But who looks after transmission? Why is theft of power taking place? I know that for three days at a stretch, you get no power, in my own city. Which means, no water because you cannot pump water without power. All this is because the people who are responsible for reducing these transmission losses are recruited in a most arbitrary manner or have not properly been trained. I have no objection to anybody being appointed, but they

must be trained properly. This has been going on for the last 30-40 years. The previous Minister have given the same answers. So, the situation is, though we produce quite a lot of power, it is not available for domestic purposes, leave alone industrial purposes. I would suggest to the hon. Minister that he should not say that it is a State subject; it is a very important national subject and the people who look after the transmission lines and who come and read Meters must be literate. I do not think they are. This is so poor in quality and that is the reason why most of the troubles are taking place in the electricity system of the whole vountry. I am pretty certain of that.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I am grateful to the suggestions given by the hon. Member, But I must point out that long-distance and inter-State transmission is in the domain of the National Power Grid. The Sub-transmission invariably come in the domain of the SEBs.

May I point out here that the national T&D losses are about 22-23 per cent, which is very high? We are addressing the problem. But the real issue is not that of qualification of the staff; the issue is that we need to bring about a culture in our country where people do realise that it costs money to produce pwoer. It is not one of God's gifts that can be taken free of cost. We need to make the theft of power socially unacceptable. I think we need to be honest about that As far as addressing this issue is concerned....(*interuptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, still there are about 20 Member s who want to ask supplementary questions, but there is no time. As some hon. Members have suggested. We can have a discussion on the subject later in one form or the other.

Now, let us take question No. 43. Shri O.P. Kohli.

Pumping in of RDX by ISI

*43. SHRI O.P. KOHLI:†
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISI is pumping RDX into the country through Nepal and Bangladesh;

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri O.P. Kohli